

REMARKS

Claims 1-47 are pending in the present application. Claims 33, 35 and 37 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 34, 36 and 38 have been amended. New Claim 47 has been added. The amendment to Claim 1 is supported by original Claims 33, 35 and 37. The amendments to Claims 34, 36 and 38 correct the dependencies in view of the cancellation of Claims 33, 35 and 37. Support for new Claim 47 is provided by, for example, page 38 of the specification, last line to page 39, line 16.

As an initial matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter contained in Claims 7-16. However, for the following reasons and in view of the amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Referring to page 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1-6 and 17-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,935,902 to Imamura. Additionally, the same claims (Claims 1-6 and 17-46) have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and (e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,326,121 to Takahashi or U.S. Patent No. 6,235,445 to Nakamura.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that Imamura, Takahashi and Nakamura all do not disclose the resolution in the recording area of an image. Further, Imamura, Takahashi and Nakamura also do not disclose that the light-to-heat converting layer contains a matting agent having a particle size of 0.3 to 30 μm , as recited in the newly added Claim 47.

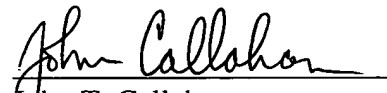
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In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully that the present claimed invention as defined by amended Claim 1, is not anticipated or rendered *prima facie* obvious by the cited references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 33, 35 and 37 are canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A multicolor image-forming material comprising:
an image-receiving sheet having an image-receiving layer; and
at least four thermal transfer sheets each including a support, a light-to-heat converting layer and an image-forming layer, in which each of the thermal transfer sheets has a different color,
wherein an image is formed by: superposing the image-forming layer in each of the at least four thermal transfer sheets on the image-receiving layer in the image-receiving sheet, in which the image-forming layer is opposed to the image-receiving layer; irradiating the image-forming layer in each of the at least four thermal transfer sheets with a laser beam; and transferring the irradiated area of the image-forming layer onto the image-receiving layer in the image-receiving sheet, and
each of the light-to-heat converting layers in the at least four thermal transfer sheets has a ratio of an optical density (OD) to a layer thickness: OD/layer thickness (μm unit) of 0.57 or more, and
wherein the transferred image has a resolution of 2,400 dpi or more,
the recording area of the multicolor image is a size of 515 mm or more multiplying 728 mm or more, and

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each of the image-forming layers in the at least four thermal transfer sheets has a ratio of
an optical density (OD) to a layer thickness: OD/layer thickness (μm unit) of 1.50 or more.

34. (Amended) The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim ~~33~~ 1,
wherein the transferred image has a resolution of 2,600 dpi or more.

36. (Amended) The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim ~~35~~ 1,
wherein the recording area of the multicolor image is a size of 594 mm or more multiplying 841
mm or more.

38. (Amended) The multicolor image-forming material as claimed in claim ~~37~~ 1,
wherein the OD/layer thickness (μm unit) is 1.80 or more.

Claim 47 is added as new claims.